# TRINITY.

This Church, connected as it is with the earliest reminiscences of our city, is endeared to the hearts of churchmen, by associations of the most hallowed character. Its history may be said to be identified with the first establishment of Episcopacy in New-York; but before proceeding with it, it may be well to take a retrospective view, and give a succinct statement of the circumstances which led to its foundation.

It is well known that the southern end of Manna-hata Island, or that part on which the city of New-York is built, was first settled in 1623, by the Dutch, and was called by them New-Amsterdam. While in their possession, and during the rule of their second governor, Wouter Van Twiller, the first Church ever built upon the island was erected.* It was located in Fort Amsterdam, near the present Bowling Green, and in it, during the Dutch Dynasty, the service of the Church of Holland was performed. Upon the surrendry of the colony to the British in 1664, the service of the Church of England, it being a government establishment, was of course introduced. Its members, then known, as the Church of England in

* Dunlap.

J. L. Forrest del. J. N. Gimbrede. sc.

St PAULS CHAPEL.

America, first held their stated religious worship in the same building, which, from that time came under Episcopal supervision, and was styled the "King's Chapel."

The congregation, however, increasing with the influx of population, found this chapel, (which was afterwards burnt down during the "Negro Plot" in 1741,) insufficient for their numbers. TRINITY CHURCH was therefore founded, to meet this emergency; and was erected in 1696, in the reign of William and Mary, and during the rule of Governor Fletcher.

This edifice, called in the old records of our city, "the English Church," was originally a small square structure, and according to Smith the historian, "very pleasantly situated on the banks of Hudson's river." Divine service was performed in it for the first time, on the sixth of February 1697, by the rector, the rev. William Vesey, who, afterwards, and for many years, was the bishop of London's commissary.

The same cause which led to the foundation of this Church, soon made an increase of its dimensions necessary. Accordingly, in 1735, it was considerably enlarged at the east end; and again, in 1737, there was a further enlargement on the north and south sides. "It has" continues Smith, "a large cemetery on each side, enclosed in the front by a painted paled fence. Before it, a long walk is railed off from the Broadway, the pleasantest street in the whole town."

While the British occupied the city as enemies, this walk was called "*the Mall*," and the troops intended as guards for the different posts of the garrison, were here paraded. During the summer evenings, "*the Mall*"

was the most fashionable promenade for the inhabitants in the city; and to render it still more attractive, a band of military music was nightly stationed in the church-yard.

After the enlargements noticed above, the dimensions of TRINITY CHURCH, were one hundred and forty-six feet in length including the tower and chancel, and seventy-two feet in width. The steeple was one hundred and eighty feet in height, and was at that time the only one in the city. In the summer of 1762, during a severe thunder storm, it was struck by lightning and slightly damaged. A precise account of this building it seems impossible to procure. It is, however, uniformly represented to have been, subsequently to the enlargements, an imposing and splendid edifice, and a great ornament to the city. Its interior appearance is thus quaintly described by Judge Smith, in his "History of New-York:"

"This Church is within ornamented beyond any place of the kind amongst us. The head of the chancel is adorned with an altar piece, and opposite to it at the other end of the building, is the organ. The tops of the pillars which support the galleries are decked with the gilt busts of angels winged. From the ceiling are suspended two glass branches, and on the walls hang the arms of some of its principal benefactors. The alleys are paved with flat stones."

On the twenty-first of September, 1776, this venerable and majestic edifice was entirely destroyed by fire, in the memorable conflagration which laid waste so large a portion of the city, and consumed four hundred and ninety-three buildings. Standing as it did, on a large and open plot of ground, and apart from the neighboring houses, it would, in all proba-

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bility, have escaped the general destruction, had not some flakes of fire fallen upon the south side of the roof, and lodged between the interstices of the shingles of which it was composed. A Mr. David Grim, a respectable citizen of that day, in his account of the fire, states, in relation to this fact, "That the southerly wind fanned those flakes of fire in a short time to an amazing blaze, and it soon became out of human power to extinguish the same, the roof of this noble edifice being so steep, that no person could go on it."

During the remainder of the Revolution, and for some years after the termination of that struggle, the ruins of TRINITY lay without molestation, in blackened heaps, a melancholy monument of the horrors of war. In 1788, however, they were removed, to give place to another edifice then about to be commenced, and which was to occupy the same site as that on which the old Church stood. The foundation stone of this new building was laid on the twenty-first of August, at 12 o'clock, by the right rev. Samuel Provoost, D. D., the first bishop of the Episcopal Church in the diocese of New-York. On this stone was the following inscription:— "To the honor of Almighty God, and the advancement of the Christian Religion, the first stone of this building was laid (on the site of the old Church destroyed by fire in 1776) on the 21st day of August, A.D. 1788, in the Thirteenth year of the Independence of the United States of America. The Right Reverend Samuel Provoost, D.D., Bishop of New-York, being Rector, the Hon. James Duane, Esq., the Hon. John Jay, Esq., Churchwardens." Upon its completion in 1791, it was consecrated by the bishop, on the twenty-fifth of March, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This new building was somewhat inferior in size to the former edifice, being but one hundred and four feet in length, and seventy-two feet in width. It was constructed of common grey stone, in the Gothic style, but perfectly plain and with very little pretension to architectural regularity. Its external effect, however, was much heightened by a well-proportioned octagonal spire of wood, surmounted by a gilt ball and vane. which rested on a stone tower, and with it, rose to the height of one hundred and eighty feet. This tower was situated on the east, instead of the west end of the building as was the case with that of the former Church, and contained a ring of eight fine bells. In front of the lower section of it, a portico, with a roof supported by several Gothic pillars, sheltered the door which opened into a vestibule formed by its walls. Directly above this door there was a white marble tablet, bearing the following inscription:—

D. O. M.

TRINITY CHURCH

was first founded in the year 1696,

enlarged and beautified in 1737,

and entirely destroyed in the great

*Conflagration of the City, Sept. 21st, A.D.* 1776.

This BUILDING was

erected on the site of the former

Church,

in the year 1788:

Right Rev. Samuel Provoost, D. D., Rector,

James Duane, Esq., and John Jay, Esq., Churchwardens.

The interior of this edifice, although deficient in that kind of beauty which is estimated by the scale of architectural proportion, was nevertheless, not unpleasing to the eye. And though its parts could not bear a critical examination, still, as a whole, there was something so solemn and venerable in its appearance, that many unacquainted with its history, supposed it to be a much more ancient structure than it really was. The windows were long, and were finished at the top with the pointed Gothic arch, and glazed with very small panes. The great altar window in the western wall, directly above the communion table, was, until its removal, the largest in the United States, and contained altogether in its three compartments, one thousand and thirty-nine panes of glass.

On either side of the Church, a gallery extended from the western to the eastern wall, and there connected with a third, a part of which formed the organ loft, and contained a large but inferior toned instrument, made in London soon after the Church was finished. Directly above this gallery were two smaller ones, separated from each other by the organ, and appropriated exclusively to the Sunday scholars and their teachers.

The side galleries were sustained in front, by eight square panelled pillars resting on the ground floor, above each of which rose a clustered Gothic column to the roof. The ceiling consisted of a triple arch over the nave, and a single arch over each gallery, all of them extending lengthways of the building. From the centre arch were suspended by iron rods, three large and elegant cut glass chandeliers, which, together with eight smaller ones under the galleries, served in part to light the Church. The communion table was placed against the western wall, and the desk and pulpit were directly in front of it, without the chancel rails. The aisles

on the ground floor were paved with grey and white marble laid in diamonds, and bordered on either side by narrow slabs of stone. The pews throughout the Church were commodious and large, and painted the color of mahogany.

In 1831, some alterations were made in the interior arrangement of this Church, for the purpose, principally, of securing a suitable situation for a monument there to be erected to the memory of the right rev. JOHN HENRY HOBART, D. D., the former rector of the parish. This splendid specimen of the sculptor's art, was executed in a chaste and tasteful manner, by order of the vestry, by Mr. Ball Hughes. It consisted of a tablet of white Italian marble, adorned in basso-relievo with a full length effigy of the Bishop, supported by a female figure, emblematic of religion, pointing to a cross. This tablet rested upon a base which bore the following inscription :—

Beneath this Chancel rest the Mortal Remains of
JOHN HENRY HOBART,
Rector of Trinity Church, in this City,
Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New-York;
Born in Philadelphia, September XIV, MDCCLXXV,
Died, during a Visitation to the Western Parts of his Diocese, in Auburn, September XII, MDCCCXXX.
The Vestry in Behalf of the associated Congregations of Trinity Church,
Have caused this Monument to be erected

In Memory of the Public Services, Private Virtues, and
Christian Graces of their beloved and lamented

PASTOR;

In Testimony of their Respect for the Wisdom, Energy,
and Piety of their revered

DIOCESAN;

In Honor of the faithful and valiant

"SOLDIER OF CHRIST,"

Who on all occasions, stood forth the able and intrepid

CHAMPION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD.

In order that this monument might have as conspicuous and favorable a situation as was desirable, it was found necessary to construct a recess for it, where a proper light and position could be secured. This recess was built in the rear of the Church, the great altar window whose magnificent proportions were so justly admired, and which was considered by all as the most striking beauty of the internal features of the building, being removed for that purpose. It was curtained by rich and heavy drapery, that hung around the monument in ample folds, and together with the colored light, thrown, by means of stained glass windows, upon the sculptured figures, contributed much to their beauty and effect. As a work of art, this monument is creditable to the age, not only in the beauty of its design, but in the elaborate richness of its execution; and the act of the vestry in ordering so costly a piece of sculpture, may be ranked among the few efforts in this country, to aid in a proper manner the advancement of the fine arts, and to encourage that genius and talent which slumbers for lack of patronage.

Against the wall, to the left of the chancel, was a neat and handsomely wrought cenotaph, erected to the memory of a young nobleman and his companions. It bears the following inscription:—

At SANDY HOOK lye interred
The Remains
OF THE HONOURABLE HAMILTON DOUGLAS HALLYBURTON
Son of SHOLTO CHARLES EARL OF MORTON, an Heir of the
Ancient Family of HALLYBURTON of PICTURR in SCOTLAND,
who perished on this Coast, with Twelve more young gentlemen
and one common Seamen, in the spirited Discharge of Duty:
on the 30th or 31st of December 1783.
Born on the 10th of October 1763.
A Youth who in contempt of hardship or Danger: though
possessed of an ample Fortune served seven years in the
British navy with a manly courage and seemed to deserve
a better fate.
This plain Monumental stone is erected by his unhappy Mother
KATHERINE COUNTESS DOWAGER of MORTON, to his dear memory
and that of his unfortunate companions,
JAMES CHAMPION, Lieutenant of Marines
ALEX. JOHNSTONE, GEORGE PADDY, ROBERT HAYWOOD
CHARLES GASCOIGNE, WILLIAM TOMLINSON,
ANDREW HAMILTON, WILLIAM SPRY,
WILLIAM SCOTT, JOHN Mc CHAIN,
DAVID REDDIE, ROBERT WOOD,
Young Gentlemen;
GEORGE TOWERS, Common Seaman,
Cast away; all found dead and frozen, and buried in one Grave.

On the south side of the wall was another to the memory of John Kemp, LL.D., with the following latin inscription on it:—

M. S.
JOANNIS KEMP LL.D. ABERDONIENSIS:
Qui, per annos abhinc septem et viginti,
*Mathematicam & Physicam*
IN COLLEGIO COLUMBIANO NEO-EBORACENSI,
magna sua laude, professus est:
Sed studiorum labore confectus,
Ac Hydrope tandem oppressus,
E vivis excessit
Decimo septimo kal. Decembris, annoque salutis 1812, mo.
Aetatis vero quinquagesimo.
In gratam præceptoris atque amici memoriam,
Tabellam hancce
*Societas Columbiana Peithologiana*
Ponendam curavit.

Besides the monuments above noticed, there were eleven others on different parts of the walls of the Church, erected respectively, to the memories of Jacob Sherred, Esq., the munificent benefactor of the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, in the United States, and to Alexander Hamilton, Arrabella Ludlow, John Ward, Joshua Jones, Sarah Hayes, David M. Clarkson, John Charlton, Andrew Hammersley, Thomas Knox, and Richard Harison. These were mostly plain marble tablets, appropriately inscribed; some of them, however, were ornamented by sculptured wreaths, and surmounted by wrought urns and vases.

In the spring of 1839, it was discovered that the apex of the roof of this edifice had sunk several inches below its original position. This caused the rafters to expand the side-walls to such an extent that the congregation became alarmed, and many of the members of it, justly considered the Church in danger of falling. Under these circumstances it was deemed advisable, in order to remove immediate apprehension, to connect the principal rafters on either side of the roof, by strong iron rods which extended across the Church, and thus prevented a farther spreading of the walls. The vestry also ordered an immediate survey of the building, with the intention of having it put in good repair, and at the same time, by a slight addition, to increase the dimensions of the chancel. This survey was accordingly made, and when completed, a report was submitted by the architect to the vestry, who acting upon its suggestions, gave an order to take down the roof, and to repair such other parts of the wood work as were not in good condition.

When the roof had been taken off, and the walls of the building uncovered, they were found in several places, much more defective than their age would have warranted in believing possible, the Church having been built but fifty years. The western and side walls, were several inches out of perpendicular; and about fifty feet of the heavy rear wall of the tower, which was supposed to have rested on a substantial arch, was found to be supported by two oak beams, twenty inches square, which were almost entirely decayed. The superstructure, therefore, was in imminent danger of falling, and indeed it seems surprising that it kept its position as long as it did, for the mortar used in its construction was destitute of adhesion, owing to the sand and lime having been poor, and improperly mixed.

The impracticability of making this edifice sufficiently secure, without rebuilding the greater portion of it, was now apparent. The vestry therefore determined to have a new Church erected, and the old one, around which clustered so many holy, interesting, and affecting reminiscences, was soon razed even with the ground. Scarce half a century had passed since its construction, and though it could not claim to be an ancient pile, the time-honored associations which it shadowed, awoke a sacred feeling of respect and love, and a tide of "sweet and bitter recollections" gushed upon the hearts of those who gazed upon its consecrated walls, as they crumbled into dust. Well may the poet have exclaimed :—

"Farewell! farewell! they're falling fast,
    Pillar, and arch, and architrave;
Yon aged pile, to me the last
Sole record of the by-gone past,
    Is speeding to its grave:
And thoughts from memory's fountain flow,
    (As one by one, like wedded hearts,
    Each rude and mouldering stone departs,)
Of boyhood's happiness and wo,—
    Its sunshine and its shade:
And though each ray of early gladness,
Comes mingled with the hues of sadness,
    I would not bid them fade:
They come, as come the stars at night,—
Like fountains gushing into light—
And close around my heart they twine,
Like ivy round the mountain pine!

Yes, they are gone—the sunlight smiles
All day upon its foot-worn aisles,
Those foot-worn aisles, where oft have trod
The humble worshippers of God,
In times long past, when Freedom first
From all the land in glory burst!
The heroic few! from him, whose sword
    Was wielded in his country's cause,
To him who battled with his word,
    The bold expounder of her laws!

And they are gone,—gone like the lone
Forgotten echoes of their tread;
And from their niches now are gone,
The sculptured records of the dead!

* * * * *

Farewell, old fane! and though unsung
By bards, thy many glories fell,
Though babbling fame hath never rung
Thy praises on his echoing bell,—
Who that hath seen, can e'er forget
Thy gray old spire?—who that hath knelt
Within thy sacred aisles, nor felt
Religion's self grow sweeter yet?
Yes! though the decking hand of Time
Glory, to Greece's fanes hath given,
That from her old heroic clime,
Point proudly to their native heaven;
Though Rome, hath many a ruin'd pile
To speak the glory of her land,
And fair, by Egypt's sacred Nile,
*Her* mould'ring monuments may stand,—
The joy that swells the gazer's heart,
The pride that sparkles in his eye,
When pond'ring on these piles, where Art
In crumbling majesty doth lie,
Ne'er blended with them keener joy,
Than mine, when but a thoughtless boy,
I gazed with awe-struck, wond'ring eye,
On thy old spire, my Trinity!
And thou shalt live like words of truth,—
Like golden moments of our youth—
As on the lake's unrippled breast
The mirror'd mountain lies at rest,
So thou shalt lie till life depart
Mirror'd for ages on my heart!"

After this Church had been sufficiently removed, the foundations of the new one were begun, and in digging for them many an interesting relic of the ancient Trinity, which was burnt in 1776, was discovered. About three feet under the surface of the ground, a walk paved with small round stones was found, which it is supposed had extended along the side of that Church, and near Broadway under the present tower, remnants

of the old chancel which was situated at the east end of the building, together with pieces of the "flat stone" flagging of the aisles were dug up. Among other curious relics brought to light by excavation, and which will be viewed with that degree of interest always attached to the monuments and sepulchres of the dead, was a tomb-stone, broken into a thousand fragments, which, from its position, seemed to have been inlaid with the chancel floor, and from which, although in a half obliterated condition, was transcribed the following :—

Here lies deposited the Body of Paul Richard, Esq.
Who was of a good family but far more honourable
In personal worth than Pedigree
He has left to Posterity
An Example
of manly and unaffected piety and all increasing conjugal tenderness
of an inflexible Probity and universal Benevolence
of a generous hospitality and extensive charity
and a prudent Zeal for the Public Weal
These excellent qualities
So early recommended him to the esteem of the Publick
that he was four years appointed Mayor of this City
and in several elections unanimously chosen Representative
to the general assembly
He was also appointed one of the Governors of Kings College
to which he was a steady friend and most generous benefactor
His mournfull widow ELIZABETH RICHARD
in honour to his memory doth here place this monument
Died October 22 AnoDomini MDCCVI aged 59.

Not far from this tablet was found a massive silver coffin plate, sixteen inches long by eleven inches wide, upon which was engraved in a rude and unskilful manner, the heraldic device and armorial bearings of Lady Cornbury, whose husband had been, prior to the severance of this country from Great Britain, a governor of the colony of New-York. Underneath this escutcheon, with some interlineations and erasures was the following inscription :—

CATHARINE Lady Viscountess Cornbvry Baroness of Clifton of Leighton Bromswoold, in the County of Warwick, sole surviving Daughter Heir of HENRY Lord OBRIAN and the Lady Catharine his wife ; who was Sole Sister and heir to the Most Noble CHARLES Duke of RICHMOND and LENOX, born The 29th day of jany in the year 1673, Departed this life att the City of New-York In America the 11th day of August 1706 in the 34th year of her age.

This plate, with the accompanying pieces of coffin, and whatever else appertained to them, together with the bones of Paul Richard, have been re-intered in a vault constructed for the purpose under the south porch of the present edifice.

On the third of June, 1841, a leaden box containing a printed copy of the charter of Trinity Church ; the Holy Bible ; the Book of Common Prayer ; Memoirs of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, by the right rev. Wm. White, D. D. ; Canons of the Church ; Journals of the General Conventions of 1829, 1832, 1835, and 1838 ; Journals of the Annual Conventions of the Diocese of New-York, with but few omissions, from 1792 to 1840 ; Church Almanac for 1841 ; a wood engraving of a

perspective view of the Church edifice as designed to be completed; a lithographic engraving of the former edifice; the Churchman, *newspaper* of May 8, 1841; and one of each of the silver coins of the United States, of the latest coinage, all except the quarter dollar being of 1841, was deposited in the corner-stone in the north front buttress of the tower. On its lid was engraved the following:—

LAUS DEO
The corporation of
TRINITY CHURCH
in the City of New-York
commenced the erection of this
EDIFICE
in the autumn of the year of our Lord
1839;
In the IX year of the Episcopate of
BENJAMIN TREDWELL ONDERDONK, D.D.,
Bishop of the Diocese of New-York,
upon the site of the former edifice then become
decayed and insecure,
on the front of which was a tablet with the following
Inscription;*

On one side was engraved the names of the Rector, Assistant Ministers, Churchwardens, and Vestrymen of the parish, at the time of its deposite; on the other, the names of the building committee, together with those of Richard Upjohn, the architect; James Thom, the sculptor; James Vandenbergh, the master-mason; and Sam'l Martin, the master-carpenter.

With the erection of this magnificent structure, of which an engraving is presented, may be said to commence a new era in the Church architecture of this country. Heretofore, as a general rule, attention to

* This inscription will be found on page 5